

REMARKS

Applicants disagree with the holding of abandonment on the basis that there is no abandonment in fact and request reconsideration of such holding, as provided under MPEP 711.03.

In reply to the Final Office Action dated December 4, 2003, Applicants filed the attached response and Petition for a two-month extension of time via facsimile transmission dated May 4, 2004. The confirmation of receipt of the facsimile transmission is also attached. Further confirmation of receipt is provided on the attached copy of PAIR indicating the incoming petition and amendment on May 4, 2004. Since a response to the Final Office Action was timely filed, there is no abandonment of the application.

The Notice of Abandonment references a telephonic interview with William M. Lee, Jr. (Reg. No. 26,935). Applicants remind the Examiner that Mr. Lee is not an attorney of record, as also shown by the attached PAIR page entries of November 19, 2002 and November 20, 2002. Copies of the corresponding Transmittal, Appointment of Power of Attorney and Revocation of Prior Powers, Change of Address and Change of Document Number, and associated return postcard are provided for the Examiner's reference. Since Mr. Lee is not an attorney of record, he could not act on behalf of Applicants to agree to or to confirm the abandonment.

9

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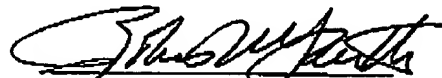
2

CONCLUSION

Based on the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the holding of abandonment and further request consideration of Applicants' response dated May 4, 2004, which Applicants respectfully submit place this application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, upon consideration of the response, allowance is requested. If there are any remaining issues or the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in expediting the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at 617-832-1175.

Respectfully submitted,

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